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1 – Oklahoma's Largest Utility Prepares To Comply With EPA, Pass Costs to Customers, StateImpact NPR, 8/13/2014

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/08/13/oklahomas-largest-utility-prepares-to-comply-with-epa-pass-costs-to-customers/>

Oklahoma Gas and Electric has put up staunch resistance to new federally mandated air pollution rules, joining Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt in taking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to court over the regional haze and mercury and air toxics rules.

2 - Oklahoma and Texas are Home to Half of U.S. Oil and Gas Drilling, StateImpact, 8/13/14

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2014/08/13/oklahoma-and-texas-are-home-to-half-of-u-s-oil-and-gas-drilling/> There were 211 drilling rigs operating in Oklahoma last week, the state's highest level in almost six years, Bloomberg's Lynn Doan and Richard Stubbe report. Northwestern Oklahoma's Mississippi Lime play continues to boom, and activity in the South-Central Oklahoma Oil Province — the so-called SCOOP — is starting to spin up, too. Oklahoma has 43 more rigs in operation than it did this time last year, which is a growth rate second only to Texas, which added 59, data from Baker Hughes show.

3 – Environmental Group Says Illegal Diesel Fracking Used in Texas, StateImpact, 8/13/14

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/08/13/environmental-group-says-illegal-diesel-fracking-used-in-texas/>

An environmental group says it's found over a hundred oil or gas wells being drilled in Texas using techniques that the group says are illegal. At issue is "fracking" which injects huge quantities of water and chemicals deep underground.

4 – Railroad Commission Starting to Get Serious About Manmade Quakes, StateImpact, 8/13/14

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/08/13/railroad-commission-starting-to-get-serious-about-manmade-quakes/>

The agency that regulates the Texas oil and gas industry announced new rules this week aimed at curbing manmade earthquakes tied to oil and gas drilling operations.

5 – Texas fracking has included diesel fuel, according to report, Austin Statesman, 8/13/14

<http://www.statesman.com/weblogs/salsa-verde/2014/aug/13/texas-fracking-has-included-diesel-fuel-according-/>

A new report by the nonprofit environmental group Environmental Integrity Project found 351 unpermitted oil-and-gas wells fracked with diesel fuels between 2010 and July 2014 by 33 different companies across 12 states, including Texas. Customarily, drillers use waters to break up buried rock formations by pumping fluid into wells at high pressure, leaving fissures through which oil and gas long trapped in the rock can escape -- a process known as fracking. But drillers have admitted to pumping diesel into formations in which water is easily absorbed. Diesel contains known carcinogens.

6 – Railroad Commission Hopefuls Discuss Disposal Well Plan, Texas Tribune, 8/14/14

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/08/14/railroad-commission-hopefuls-scrutinize-quake-resp/>

Two Railroad Commission hopefuls on Wednesday called the agency's efforts to regulate wastewater disposal wells a good first step in addressing the spate of earthquakes that have shaken up parts of North Texas — a phenomenon that some suspect is linked to local disposal wells. But the candidates said the agency should do more to restore those communities' faith in its oversight.

7 – Editorial: Waste not, want not, Dallas Morning News, 8/13/2014

<http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/20140813-editorial-waste-not-want-not.ece>

Hydraulic fracturing has freed volumes of trapped natural gas and fueled an energy revolution. But it's come at a cost — the high use of water, a precious resource in a perpetually drought-stricken state. Ask a rancher or farmer, and they'll tell you how badly they need water for their herds and crops. Ask new housing developers, and they'll say that without water, there is no subdivision.

8 – Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy sets meeting to discuss new solar, wind bill, NewsOk, 8/14/2014

<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-corporation-commissioner-dana-murphy-sets-meeting-to-discuss-new-solar-wind-bill/article/5199209>

A new state law affecting rooftop solar and small wind turbine users will be studied in September at a meeting organized by Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Dana Murphy. Participants will discuss the implementation of Senate Bill 1456, which allows regulated utilities to apply to the commission to establish a new, higher rate structure for users of distributed generation, which includes electricity generated from rooftop solar and small wind turbines.

9 – Work begins on cofferdam for permanent closure, pump station on 17th Street Canal, Times Picayune, 8/13/2014

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/08/work_begins_on_cofferdam_for_p.html#incart_river

A front-end loader dumped buckets full of sand into the mouth of the 17th Street Canal on Wednesday, the first step in building a huge cofferdam for the construction of a permanent canal closure and pump station building to protect the canal from hurricane storm surges.

10 – Louisiana and 20 coastal parishes to share 20 percent of initial Restore Act money, Times Picayune, 8/13/2014

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/08/louisiana_20_coastal_parishes.html#incart_river

Louisiana and 20 coastal parishes will share 20 percent of the the first two baskets of BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill fine money to be distributed among Gulf Coast states under the federal Restore Act, according to new rules issued by the U.S. Treasury on Wednesday.

11 – Cool Planet to award contract for \$56 million biofuels plant in Alexandria, Times Picayune, 8/13/2014

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/08/cool_planet_to_award_contract.html#incart_river

Cool Planet Energy Systems, a Colorado energy startup that aims to turn woodchips and other organic waste into gasoline as well as a crop-boosting soil enhancer, says it has started clearing land to build its first commercial plant in Alexandria. The company expects to put out the construction contract for the first phase of the \$56 million plant later this year.

12- Mexico urged to tap U.S. tax regime as business model to boost sector, Energywire, 8/14/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/08/14/stories/1060004475>

When Oscar López Velarde talks to Mexican leaders about the energy sector, he urges them to look north. The United States has tapped massive energy resources, he says, largely because of a sprawling infrastructure web. But Mexico, despite its geological riches, is comparatively blank.

13- Appellate Ruling Blocks EPA From 'Grandfathering' Air Permit Waivers, Inside EPA, 8/13/14

<http://insideepa.com/201408132479203/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/appellate-ruling-blocks-epa-from-grandfathering-air-permit-waivers/menu-id-95.html>

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit has scrapped a permit EPA issued for the Avenal Power natural gas utility in California that "grandfathered" the plant from having to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) and stricter conventional pollutant limits finalized during the permitting process, saying EPA lacked power to waive the limits.

14- EPA Unveils Test Methods For Fracking Study, Raising New Policy Doubts, Inside EPA, 8/13/14

<http://insideepa.com/201408132479294/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-unveils-test-methods-for-fracking-study-raising-new-policy-doubts/menu-id-95.html?s=dn>

EPA has unveiled new academic papers detailing novel water testing methods to detect contaminants linked to hydraulic fracturing as part of its pending study on whether the process adversely impacts drinking water, but advocates say the studies fail to resolve questions about the fate of the assessment and the agency's fracking policies.

15- (OP-ED) Everyone deserves clean air and equal protection from pollution, Beaumont Enterprise, 8/12/14

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/opinion/outlook/article/Everyone-deserves-clean-air-and-equal-protection-5684461.php>

Would you want your child to live next door to an oil refinery and face an increased risk for cancer, heart or breathing problems? Millions of Americans live very close to some 150 oil refineries in 32 states, including our home states of Texas and Louisiana, and have an increased cancer risk because of the air pollution coming from refineries.